1	ADOPTION AMENDMENTS
2	2021 GENERAL SESSION
3	STATE OF UTAH
4	Chief Sponsor: Merrill F. Nelson
5	Senate Sponsor: Todd D. Weiler
6 7	LONG TITLE
8	General Description:
9	This bill amends and enacts provisions relating to adoption.
10	Highlighted Provisions:
11	This bill:
12	 clarifies that a new birth certificate may be issued after the adoption of an adult;
13	 allows an attorney in the adoption or the child-placing agency to be provided the
14	adoption report;
15	allows the attorney in the adoption or the child-placing agency to take the adoption
16	report to the state registrar;
17	 clarifies that a new birth certificate may be issued for a foreign-born individual who
18	is adopted as an adult;
19	 defines a term regarding a prospective adoptive parent;
20	 requires the Division of Child and Family Services to follow the wishes of a natural
21	parent who has created a voluntary adoption plan;
22	requires a peace officer or a caseworker to inform certain individuals that a parent
23	of a child taken into protective custody may create a voluntary adoption plan;
24	 requires the juvenile court, at a shelter hearing, to allow a proposed adoptive
25	placement to proceed, grant preferential consideration to a prospective adoptive
26	parent, and dismiss an abuse, neglect, and dependency petition, if the parent has

created a voluntary adoption plan and a preplacement adoptive evaluation has been



28	conducted and recommends the adoptive placement;
29	 amends venue provisions for adoption proceedings;
30	 allows the spouse of a preexisting parent to adopt a child after the child's death;
31	• if a child-placing agency placed a child for adoption, provides that the child-placing
32	agency file an affidavit regarding fees and expenses with the Office of Licensing
33	within the Department of Human Services; and
34	 makes technical and conforming changes.
35	Money Appropriated in this Bill:
36	None
37	Other Special Clauses:
38	None
39	Utah Code Sections Affected:
40	AMENDS:
41	26-2-10, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2015, Chapter 137
42	26-2-25, as last amended by Laws of Utah 1995, Chapter 202
43	26-2-28, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2008, Chapter 3
44	62A-4a-101, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapters 259 and 335
45	62A-4a-105, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2020, Chapters 108 and 250
46	62A-4a-202.2, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2008, Chapter 3
47	78A-6-306, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2020, Chapters 158 and 214
48	78B-6-105, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2020, Chapter 214
49	78B-6-115, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2015, Chapter 137
50	78B-6-120.1, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2013, Chapter 458
51	78B-6-136.5, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2012, Chapter 340
52	78B-6-140, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2012, Chapter 340
53	
54	Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:
55	Section 1. Section 26-2-10 is amended to read:
56	26-2-10. Supplementary certificate of birth.
57	[(1) Any person born in this state who is legitimized by the subsequent marriage of the
58	person's natural parents, or whose parentage has been determined by any U.S. state court or

59	Canadian provincial court having jurisdiction, or who has been regardy adopted under the law
60	of this or any other state or any province of Canada, may request the state registrar to register a
61	supplementary birth certificate on the basis of that status.]
62	(1) An individual born in this state may request the state registrar to register a
63	supplementary birth certificate for the individual if:
64	(a) the individual is legitimized by the subsequent marriage of the individual's natural
65	parents;
66	(b) the individual's parentage has been determined by a state court of the United States
67	or a Canadian provincial court with jurisdiction; or
68	(c) the individual has been legally adopted, as a child or as an adult, under the law of
69	this state, any other state, or any province of Canada.
70	(2) The application for registration of a supplementary birth certificate may be made
71	by <u>:</u>
72	(a) the [person] individual requesting registration[7] under Subsection (1) if the
73	[person] individual is of legal age[, by];
74	(b) a legal representative[, or by]; or
75	(c) any agency authorized to receive children for placement or adoption under the laws
76	of this or any other state.
77	(3) (a) The state registrar shall require that an applicant submit identification and proof
78	according to department rules.
79	(b) In the case of an adopted [person] individual, that proof may be established by
80	order of the court in which the adoption proceedings were held.
81	(4) (a) After the supplementary birth certificate is registered, any information disclosed
82	from the record shall be from the supplementary birth certificate.
83	(b) Access to the original birth certificate and to the evidence submitted in support of
84	the supplementary birth certificate are not open to inspection except upon the order of a Utah
85	district court or [as provided under] as described in Section 78B-6-141 or Section 78B-6-144.
86	Section 2. Section 26-2-25 is amended to read:
87	26-2-25. Divorce or adoption Duty of court clerk to file certificates or reports.
88	(1) [(a)] For each adoption, annulment of adoption, divorce, and annulment of marriage
89	ordered or decreed in this state, the clerk of the court shall prepare a divorce certificate or

90	report of adoption on a form furnished by the state registrar.
91	(2) The petitioner shall provide the information necessary to prepare the certificate or
92	report [when he files the petition with the clerk] under Subsection (1).
93	[(b)] <u>(3)</u> The clerk shall:
94	(a) prepare the certificate or report [and, immediately after the decree or order becomes
95	final, shall] under Subsection (1); and
96	(b) complete the remaining entries for the certificate or report immediately after the
97	decree or order becomes final.
98	(4) On or before the 15th day of each month, the clerk shall forward the divorce
99	certificates and reports of adoption <u>under Subsection (1)</u> completed by [him] the clerk during
100	the preceding month to the state registrar.
101	[(2) If there is filed with the clerk of the court in an adoption proceeding a written
102	consent to adoption by an agency licensed under the laws of the state to receive children for
103	placement or adoption, the agency by its authorized representative shall prepare and complete
104	the report of adoption and forward it to the state registrar immediately after entry of the decree
105	of adoption.]
106	(5) (a) A report of adoption under Subsection (1) may be provided to the attorney who
107	is providing representation of a party to the adoption or the child-placing agency, as defined in
108	Section 78B-6-103, that is placing the child.
109	(b) If a report of adoption is provided to the attorney or the child-placing agency, as
110	defined in Section 78B-6-103, the attorney or the child-placing agency shall immediately
111	provide the report of adoption to the state registrar.
112	Section 3. Section 26-2-28 is amended to read:
113	26-2-28. Birth certificate for foreign adoptees.
114	Upon presentation of a court order of adoption and an order establishing the fact, time,
115	and place of birth under Section 26-2-15, the department shall prepare a birth certificate for
116	[any person] an individual who:
117	(1) was adopted under the laws of this state; and
118	(2) was at the time of adoption, as a child or as an adult, considered an alien child or
119	<u>adult</u> for whom the court received documentary evidence of [<u>legal residence</u>] <u>lawful admission</u>
120	under Section 78B-6-108.

121	Section 4. Section 62A-4a-101 is amended to read:
122	62A-4a-101. Definitions.
123	As used in this chapter:
124	(1) "Abuse" means the same as that term is defined in Section 78A-6-105.
125	(2) "Adoption services" means:
126	(a) placing children for adoption;
127	(b) subsidizing adoptions under Section 62A-4a-105;
128	(c) supervising adoption placements until the adoption is finalized by the court;
129	(d) conducting adoption studies;
130	(e) preparing adoption reports upon request of the court; and
131	(f) providing postadoptive placement services, upon request of a family, for the
132	purpose of stabilizing a possible disruptive placement.
133	(3) "Child" means, except as provided in Part 7, Interstate Compact on Placement of
134	Children, a person under 18 years of age.
135	(4) "Child protection team" means a team consisting of:
136	(a) the caseworker assigned to the case;
137	(b) the caseworker who made the decision to remove the child;
138	(c) a representative of the school or school district where the child attends school;
139	(d) the peace officer who removed the child from the home;
140	(e) a representative of the appropriate Children's Justice Center, if one is established
141	within the county where the child resides;
142	(f) if appropriate, and known to the division, a therapist or counselor who is familiar
143	with the child's circumstances;
144	(g) members of a child protection unit; and
145	(h) any other individuals determined appropriate and necessary by the team coordinator
146	and chair.
147	(5) "Child protection unit" means any unit created by a chief of police or a sheriff of a
148	city, town, metro township, or county that is composed of at least the following individuals
149	who are trained in the prevention, identification, and treatment of abuse or neglect:
150	(a) a law enforcement officer, as defined in Section 53-13-103; and
151	(b) a child advocate selected by the chief of police or a sheriff.

152	(6) (a) "Chronic abuse" means repeated or patterned abuse.
153	(b) "Chronic abuse" does not mean an isolated incident of abuse.
154	(7) (a) "Chronic neglect" means repeated or patterned neglect.
155	(b) "Chronic neglect" does not mean an isolated incident of neglect.
156	(8) "Consult" means an interaction between two persons in which the initiating person:
157	(a) provides information to another person;
158	(b) provides the other person an opportunity to respond; and
159	(c) takes the other person's response, if any, into consideration.
160	(9) "Consumer" means a person who receives services offered by the division in
161	accordance with this chapter.
162	(10) "Custody," with regard to the division, means the custody of a minor in the
163	division as of the date of disposition.
164	(11) "Day-care services" means care of a child for a portion of the day which is less
165	than 24 hours:
166	(a) in the child's own home by a responsible person; or
167	(b) outside of the child's home in a:
168	(i) day-care center;
169	(ii) family group home; or
170	(iii) family child care home.
171	(12) "Dependent child" or "dependency" means a child, or the condition of a child, who
172	is homeless or without proper care through no fault of the child's parent, guardian, or custodian.
173	(13) "Director" means the director of the Division of Child and Family Services.
174	(14) "Division" means the Division of Child and Family Services.
175	(15) "Domestic violence services" means:
176	(a) temporary shelter, treatment, and related services to:
177	(i) a person who is a victim of abuse, as defined in Section 78B-7-102; and
178	(ii) the dependent children of a person who is a victim of abuse, as defined in Section
179	78B-7-102; and
180	(b) treatment services for a person who is alleged to have committed, has been
181	convicted of, or has pled guilty to, an act of domestic violence as defined in Section 77-36-1.
182	(16) "Harm" means the same as that term is defined in Section 78A-6-105.

183	(17) "Homemaking service" means the care of individuals in their domiciles, and help
184	given to individual caretaker relatives to achieve improved household and family management
185	through the services of a trained homemaker.
186	(18) "Incest" means the same as that term is defined in Section 78A-6-105.
187	(19) "Indian child" means the same as that term is defined in 25 U.S.C. Sec. 1903.
188	(20) "Indian tribe" means the same as that term is defined in 25 U.S.C. Sec. 1903.
189	(21) "Minor" means, except as provided in Part 7, Interstate Compact on Placement of
190	Children:
191	(a) a child; or
192	(b) a person:
193	(i) who is at least 18 years of age and younger than 21 years of age; and
194	(ii) for whom the division has been specifically ordered by the juvenile court to provide
195	services.
196	(22) "Molestation" means the same as that term is defined in Section 78A-6-105.
197	(23) "Mutual case" means a case that has been:
198	(a) opened by the division under the division's discretion and procedures;
199	(b) opened by the law enforcement agency with jurisdiction over the case; and
200	(c) accepted for investigation by the child protection unit established by the chief of
201	police or sheriff, as applicable.
202	(24) "Natural parent" means a minor's biological or adoptive parent, and includes a
203	minor's noncustodial parent.
204	(25) "Neglect" means the same as that term is defined in Section 78A-6-105.
205	(26) "Prospective adoptive parent" means the same as that term is defined in Section
206	<u>78B-6-103.</u>
207	[(26)] (27) "Protective custody," with regard to the division, means the shelter of a
208	child by the division from the time the child is removed from the child's home until the earlier
209	of:
210	(a) the shelter hearing; or
211	(b) the child's return home.
212	$\left[\frac{(27)}{(28)}\right]$ "Protective services" means expedited services that are provided:
213	(a) in response to evidence of neglect, abuse, or dependency of a child;

214	(b) to a cohabitant who is neglecting or abusing a child, in order to:
215	(i) help the cohabitant develop recognition of the cohabitant's duty of care and of the
216	causes of neglect or abuse; and
217	(ii) strengthen the cohabitant's ability to provide safe and acceptable care; and
218	(c) in cases where the child's welfare is endangered:
219	(i) to bring the situation to the attention of the appropriate juvenile court and law
220	enforcement agency;
221	(ii) to cause a protective order to be issued for the protection of the child, when
222	appropriate; and
223	(iii) to protect the child from the circumstances that endanger the child's welfare
224	including, when appropriate:
225	(A) removal from the child's home;
226	(B) placement in substitute care; and
227	(C) petitioning the court for termination of parental rights.
228	[(28)] (29) "Severe abuse" means the same as that term is defined in Section
229	78A-6-105.
230	[(29)] (30) "Severe neglect" means the same as that term is defined in Section
231	78A-6-105.
232	[(30)] (31) "Sexual abuse" means the same as that term is defined in Section
233	78A-6-105.
234	[(31)] (32) "Sexual exploitation" means the same as that term is defined in Section
235	78A-6-105.
236	[(32)] (33) "Shelter care" means the temporary care of a minor in a nonsecure facility.
237	[(33)] (34) "Sibling" means a child who shares or has shared at least one parent in
238	common either by blood or adoption.
239	[(34)] (35) "Sibling visitation" means services provided by the division to facilitate the
240	interaction between a child in division custody with a sibling of that child.
241	[(35)] <u>(36)</u> "State" means:
242	(a) a state of the United States;
243	(b) the District of Columbia;
244	(c) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

245	(d) the Virgin Islands;
246	(e) Guam;
247	(f) the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; or
248	(g) a territory or possession administered by the United States.
249	[(36)] (37) "State plan" means the written description of the programs for children,
250	youth, and family services administered by the division in accordance with federal law.
251	[(37)] (38) "Status offense" means a violation of the law that would not be a violation
252	but for the age of the offender.
253	[(38)] (39) "Substance abuse" means the same as that term is defined in Section
254	78A-6-105.
255	[(39)] (40) "Substantiated" or "substantiation" means a judicial finding based on a
256	preponderance of the evidence that abuse or neglect occurred. Each allegation made or
257	identified in a given case shall be considered separately in determining whether there should be
258	a finding of substantiated.
259	$\left[\frac{(40)}{(41)}\right]$ "Substitute care" means:
260	(a) the placement of a minor in a family home, group care facility, or other placement
261	outside the minor's own home, either at the request of a parent or other responsible relative, or
262	upon court order, when it is determined that continuation of care in the minor's own home
263	would be contrary to the minor's welfare;
264	(b) services provided for a minor awaiting placement; and
265	(c) the licensing and supervision of a substitute care facility.
266	[(41)] (42) "Supported" means a finding by the division based on the evidence
267	available at the completion of an investigation that there is a reasonable basis to conclude that
268	abuse, neglect, or dependency occurred. Each allegation made or identified during the course
269	of the investigation shall be considered separately in determining whether there should be a
270	finding of supported.
271	[(42)] (43) "Temporary custody," with regard to the division, means the custody of a
272	child in the division from the date of the shelter hearing until disposition.
273	[(43)] (44) "Threatened harm" means the same as that term is defined in Section
274	78A-6-105.
275	[(44)] (45) "Transportation services" means travel assistance given to an individual

276	with escort service, if necessary, to and from community facilities and resources as part of a
277	service plan.
278	[(45)] (46) "Unsubstantiated" means a judicial finding that there is insufficient
279	evidence to conclude that abuse or neglect occurred.
280	[(46)] (47) "Unsupported" means a finding by the division at the completion of an
281	investigation that there is insufficient evidence to conclude that abuse, neglect, or dependency
282	occurred. However, a finding of unsupported means also that the division did not conclude
283	that the allegation was without merit.
284	[(47)] (48) "Without merit" means a finding at the completion of an investigation by
285	the division, or a judicial finding, that the alleged abuse, neglect, or dependency did not occur,
286	or that the alleged perpetrator was not responsible for the abuse, neglect, or dependency.
287	Section 5. Section 62A-4a-105 is amended to read:
288	62A-4a-105. Division responsibilities.
289	(1) The division shall:
290	(a) administer services to minors and families, including:
291	(i) child welfare services;
292	(ii) domestic violence services; and
293	(iii) all other responsibilities that the Legislature or the executive director may assign
294	to the division;
295	(b) provide the following services:
296	(i) financial and other assistance to an individual adopting a child with special needs
297	under Part 9, Adoption Assistance, not to exceed the amount the division would provide for the
298	child as a legal ward of the state;
299	(ii) non-custodial and in-home services, including:
300	(A) services designed to prevent family break-up; and
301	(B) family preservation services;
302	(iii) reunification services to families whose children are in substitute care in
303	accordance with the requirements of this chapter and Title 78A, Chapter 6, Juvenile Court Act;
304	(iv) protective supervision of a family, upon court order, in an effort to eliminate abuse
305	or neglect of a child in that family;
306	(v) shelter care in accordance with the requirements of this chanter and Title 78 Δ

307	Chapter 6, Juvenile Court Act;
308	(vi) domestic violence services, in accordance with the requirements of federal law;
309	(vii) protective services to victims of domestic violence, as defined in Section 77-36-1,
310	and their children, in accordance with the provisions of this chapter and Title 78A, Chapter 6,
311	Part 3, Abuse, Neglect, and Dependency Proceedings;
312	(viii) substitute care for dependent, abused, and neglected children;
313	(ix) services for minors who are victims of human trafficking or human smuggling as
314	described in Sections 76-5-308 through 76-5-310 or who have engaged in prostitution or sexual
315	solicitation as defined in Sections 76-10-1302 and 76-10-1313; and
316	(x) training for staff and providers involved in the administration and delivery of
317	services offered by the division in accordance with this chapter;
318	(c) establish standards for all:
319	(i) contract providers of out-of-home care for minors and families;
320	(ii) facilities that provide substitute care for dependent, abused, and neglected children
321	placed in the custody of the division; and
322	(iii) direct or contract providers of domestic violence services described in Subsection
323	(1)(b)(vi);
324	(d) have authority to:
325	(i) contract with a private, nonprofit organization to recruit and train foster care
326	families and child welfare volunteers in accordance with Section 62A-4a-107.5; and
327	(ii) approve facilities that meet the standards established under Subsection (1)(c) to
328	provide substitute care for dependent, abused, and neglected children placed in the custody of
329	the division;
330	(e) cooperate with the federal government in the administration of child welfare and
331	domestic violence programs and other human service activities assigned by the department;
332	(f) if there is a privacy agreement with an Indian tribe to protect the confidentiality of
333	division records to the same extent that the division is required to protect division records,
334	cooperate with and share all appropriate information in the division's possession regarding an
335	Indian child, the Indian child's parent or guardian, or a proposed placement for the Indian child
336	with the Indian tribe that is affiliated with the Indian child;
337	(g) in accordance with Subsection (2)(a), promote and enforce state and federal laws

338	enacted for the protection of abused, neglected, and dependent children, in accordance with the
339	requirements of this chapter, unless administration is expressly vested in another division or
340	department of the state;
341	(h) cooperate with the Workforce Development Division within the Department of
342	Workforce Services in meeting the social and economic needs of an individual who is eligible
343	for public assistance;
344	(i) compile relevant information, statistics, and reports on child and family service
345	matters in the state;
346	(j) prepare and submit to the department, the governor, and the Legislature reports of
347	the operation and administration of the division in accordance with the requirements of
348	Sections 62A-4a-117 and 62A-4a-118;
349	(k) within appropriations from the Legislature, provide or contract for a variety of
350	domestic violence services and treatment methods;
351	(l) ensure regular, periodic publication, including electronic publication, regarding the
352	number of children in the custody of the division who:
353	(i) have a permanency goal of adoption; or
354	(ii) have a final plan of termination of parental rights, pursuant to Section 78A-6-314,
355	and promote adoption of those children;
356	(m) subject to Subsection (2)(b), refer an individual receiving services from the
357	division to the local substance abuse authority or other private or public resource for a
358	court-ordered drug screening test;
359	(n) report before November 30, 2020, and every third year thereafter, to the Social
360	Services Appropriations Subcommittee regarding:
361	(i) the daily reimbursement rate that is provided to licensed foster parents based on
362	level of care;
363	(ii) the amount of money spent on daily reimbursements for licensed foster parents in
364	the state during the previous fiscal year; and
365	(iii) any recommended changes to the division's budget to support the daily
366	reimbursement rates described in Subsection (1)(n)(i); [and]

(o) if a natural parent creates a voluntary adoption plan under Subsection

62A-4a-202.2(1)(a)(viii) and agrees to terminate the natural parent's parental rights, follow the

369	wishes of the natural parent regarding the proposed adoptive placement of the child; and
370	[(o)] (p) perform other duties and functions required by law.
371	(2) (a) In carrying out the requirements of Subsection (1)(g), the division shall:
372	(i) cooperate with the juvenile courts, the Division of Juvenile Justice Services, and
373	with all public and private licensed child welfare agencies and institutions to develop and
374	administer a broad range of services and support;
375	(ii) take the initiative in all matters involving the protection of abused or neglected
376	children, if adequate provisions have not been made or are not likely to be made; and
377	(iii) make expenditures necessary for the care and protection of the children described
378	in this Subsection (2)(a), within the division's budget.
379	(b) When an individual is referred to a local substance abuse authority or other private
380	or public resource for court-ordered drug screening under Subsection (1)(m), the court shall
381	order the individual to pay all costs of the tests unless:
382	(i) the cost of the drug screening is specifically funded or provided for by other federal
383	or state programs;
384	(ii) the individual is a participant in a drug court; or
385	(iii) the court finds that the individual is impecunious.
386	(3) Except to the extent provided by rule, the division is not responsible for
387	investigating domestic violence in the presence of a child, as described in Section 76-5-109.1.
388	(4) The division may not require a parent who has a child in the custody of the division
389	to pay for some or all of the cost of any drug testing the parent is required to undergo.
390	Section 6. Section 62A-4a-202.2 is amended to read:
391	62A-4a-202.2. Notice upon removal of child Locating noncustodial parent
392	Written statement of procedural rights and preliminary proceedings.
393	(1) (a) Any peace officer or caseworker who takes a child into protective custody
394	[pursuant to] in accordance with Section 62A-4a-202.1 shall immediately use reasonable
395	efforts to locate and inform, through the most efficient means available, the parents, including a
396	noncustodial parent, the guardian, or responsible relative:
397	(i) that the child has been taken into protective custody;
398	(ii) the reasons for removal and placement of the child in protective custody;
399	(iii) that a written statement is available that explains:

400	(A) the parent's or guardian's procedural rights; and
401	(B) the preliminary stages of the investigation and shelter hearing;
402	(iv) of a telephone number where the parent or guardian may access further
403	information;
404	(v) that the child and the child's parent or guardian are entitled to have an attorney
405	present at the shelter hearing;
406	(vi) that if the child's parent or guardian is impecunious and desires to have an attorney
407	one will be provided; [and]
408	(vii) that resources are available to assist the child's parent or guardian, including:
409	(A) a parent advocate;
410	(B) a qualified attorney; or
411	(C) potential expert witnesses to testify on behalf of the:
412	(I) child;
413	(II) child's parent;
414	(III) child's guardian; or
415	(IV) child's family[:]; and
416	(viii) that a natural parent of the child may create a voluntary adoption plan for the
417	child.
418	(b) For purposes of locating and informing the noncustodial parent as required in
419	Subsection (1)(a), the division shall search for the noncustodial parent through the national
420	parent locator database if the division is unable to locate the noncustodial parent through other
421	reasonable efforts.
422	(2) (a) The Office of the Attorney General shall adopt, print, and distribute a form for
423	the written statement described in Subsection (1)(a)(iii).
424	(b) The statement described in Subsections (1)(a)(iii) and (2)(a) shall:
425	(i) be made available to the division and for distribution in:
426	(A) schools;
427	(B) health care facilities;
428	(C) local police and sheriff's offices;
429	(D) the division; and
430	(E) any other appropriate office within the Department of Human Services;

431	(ii) be in simple language; and
432	(iii) include at least the following information:
433	(A) the conditions under which a child may be released;
434	(B) hearings that may be required;
435	(C) the means by which the parent or guardian may access further specific information
436	about a child's case and conditions of protective and temporary custody; and
437	(D) the rights of a child and of the parent or guardian to legal counsel and to appeal.
438	(3) If reasonable efforts are made by the peace officer or caseworker to notify the
439	parent or guardian or a responsible relative in accordance with the requirements of Subsection
440	(1), failure to notify:
441	(a) shall be considered to be due to circumstances beyond the control of the peace
442	officer or caseworker; and
443	(b) may not be construed to:
444	(i) permit a new defense to any juvenile or judicial proceeding; or
445	(ii) interfere with any rights, procedures, or investigations provided for by this chapter
446	or Title 78A, Chapter 6, Juvenile Court Act of 1996.
447	Section 7. Section 78A-6-306 is amended to read:
448	78A-6-306. Shelter hearing.
449	(1) A shelter hearing shall be held within 72 hours excluding weekends and holidays
450	after any one or all of the following occur:
451	(a) removal of the child from the child's home by the division;
452	(b) placement of the child in the protective custody of the division;
453	(c) emergency placement under Subsection 62A-4a-202.1(4);
454	(d) as an alternative to removal of the child, a parent enters a domestic violence shelter
455	at the request of the division; or
456	(e) a "Motion for Expedited Placement in Temporary Custody" is filed under
457	Subsection 78A-6-106(4).
458	(2) If one of the circumstances described in Subsections (1)(a) through (e) occurs, the
459	division shall issue a notice that contains all of the following:
460	(a) the name and address of the person to whom the notice is directed;
461	(b) the date, time, and place of the shelter hearing;

462	(c) the name of the child on whose behalf a petition is being brought;
463	(d) a concise statement regarding:
464	(i) the reasons for removal or other action of the division under Subsection (1); and
465	(ii) the allegations and code sections under which the proceeding has been instituted;
466	(e) a statement that the parent or guardian to whom notice is given, and the child, are
467	entitled to have an attorney present at the shelter hearing, and that if the parent or guardian is
468	indigent and cannot afford an attorney, and desires to be represented by an attorney, one will be
469	provided in accordance with Title 78B, Chapter 22, Indigent Defense Act; and
470	(f) a statement that the parent or guardian is liable for the cost of support of the child in
471	the protective custody, temporary custody, and custody of the division, and the cost for legal
472	counsel appointed for the parent or guardian under Subsection (2)(e), according to the financial
473	ability of the parent or guardian.
474	(3) The notice described in Subsection (2) shall be personally served as soon as
475	possible, but no later than one business day after removal of the child from the child's home, or
476	the filing of a "Motion for Expedited Placement in Temporary Custody" under Subsection
477	78A-6-106(4), on:
478	(a) the appropriate guardian ad litem; and
479	(b) both parents and any guardian of the child, unless the parents or guardians cannot
480	be located.
481	(4) The following persons shall be present at the shelter hearing:
482	(a) the child, unless it would be detrimental for the child;
483	(b) the child's parents or guardian, unless the parents or guardian cannot be located, or
484	fail to appear in response to the notice;
485	(c) counsel for the parents, if one is requested;
486	(d) the child's guardian ad litem;
487	(e) the caseworker from the division who is assigned to the case; and
488	(f) the attorney from the attorney general's office who is representing the division.
489	(5) (a) At the shelter hearing, the court shall:
490	(i) provide an opportunity to provide relevant testimony to:
491	(A) the child's parent or guardian, if present; and
492	(B) any other person having relevant knowledge:

+93	(ii) subject to Section /8A-6-303, provide an opportunity for the child to testify, [and]
194	(iii) in accordance with Subsections 78A-6-307(18)(c) through (e) and except as
195	provided by Subsection (5)(a)(iv), grant preferential consideration to a relative or friend for the
196	temporary placement of the child[-]; and
197	(iv) if the natural parent of the child has created a voluntary adoption plan under
198	Subsection 62A-4a-202.2(1)(a)(viii), a preplacement adoptive evaluation has been conducted
199	for the prospective adoptive parent of the child in accordance with Section 78B-6-128, and the
500	preplacement adoptive evaluation recommends the suitability of the prospective adoptive
501	parent for placement of a child:
502	(A) allow the proposed adoptive placement to proceed;
503	(B) grant preferential consideration to the prospective adoptive parent for the
504	temporary placement of the child; and
505	(C) dismiss the petition filed under Section 78A-6-304.
506	(b) The court:
507	(i) may consider all relevant evidence, in accordance with the Utah Rules of Juvenile
508	Procedure;
509	(ii) shall hear relevant evidence presented by the child, the child's parent or guardian,
510	the requesting party, or their counsel; and
511	(iii) may in its discretion limit testimony and evidence to only that which goes to the
512	issues of removal and the child's need for continued protection.
513	(6) If the child is in the protective custody of the division, the division shall report to
514	the court:
515	(a) the reason why the child was removed from the parent's or guardian's custody;
516	(b) any services provided to the child and the child's family in an effort to prevent
517	removal;
518	(c) the need, if any, for continued shelter;
519	(d) the available services that could facilitate the return of the child to the custody of
520	the child's parent or guardian; and
521	(e) subject to Subsections 78A-6-307(18)(c) through (e), whether any relatives of the
522	child or friends of the child's parents may be able and willing to accept temporary placement or
523	the child.

(7) The court shall consider all relevant evidence provided by persons or entities authorized to present relevant evidence pursuant to this section. (8) (a) If necessary to protect the child, preserve the rights of a party, or for other good cause shown, the court may grant no more than one continuance, not to exceed five judicial days. (b) A court shall honor, as nearly as practicable, the request by a parent or guardian for a continuance under Subsection (8)(a). (c) Notwithstanding Subsection (8)(a), if the division fails to provide the notice described in Subsection (2) within the time described in Subsection (3), the court may grant the request of a parent or guardian for a continuance, not to exceed five judicial days. (9) (a) If the child is in the protective custody of the division, the court shall order that the child be returned to the custody of the parent or guardian unless it finds, by a preponderance of the evidence, consistent with the protections and requirements provided in Subsection 62A-4a-201(1), that any one of the following exists: (i) subject to Subsection (9)(b)(i), there is a serious danger to the physical health or safety of the child and the child's physical health or safety may not be protected without removing the child from the custody of the child's parent; (ii) (A) the child is suffering emotional damage that results in a serious impairment in the child's growth, development, behavior, or psychological functioning; (B) the parent or guardian is unwilling or unable to make reasonable changes that would sufficiently prevent future damage; and (C) there are no reasonable means available by which the child's emotional health may be protected without removing the child from the custody of the child's parent or guardian; (iii) there is a substantial risk that the child will suffer abuse or neglect if the child is not removed from the custody of the child's parent or guardian; (iv) subject to Subsection (9)(b)(ii), the child or a minor residing in the same household has been, or is considered to be at substantial risk of being, physically abused,

551 sexually abused, or sexually exploited by a: 552 (A) parent or guardian;

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- (B) member of the parent's household or the guardian's household; or
- 554 (C) person known to the parent or guardian;

555	(v) the parent or guardian is unwilling to have physical custody of the child;
556	(vi) the child is without any provision for the child's support;
557	(vii) a parent who is incarcerated or institutionalized has not or cannot arrange for safe
558	and appropriate care for the child;
559	(viii) (A) a relative or other adult custodian with whom the child is left by the parent or
560	guardian is unwilling or unable to provide care or support for the child;
561	(B) the whereabouts of the parent or guardian are unknown; and
562	(C) reasonable efforts to locate the parent or guardian are unsuccessful;
563	(ix) subject to Subsections 78A-6-105(40)(b) and 78A-6-117(2) and Section
564	78A-6-301.5, the child is in immediate need of medical care;
565	(x) (A) the physical environment or the fact that the child is left unattended beyond a
566	reasonable period of time poses a threat to the child's health or safety; and
567	(B) the parent or guardian is unwilling or unable to make reasonable changes that
568	would remove the threat;
569	(xi) (A) the child or a minor residing in the same household has been neglected; and
570	(B) the parent or guardian is unwilling or unable to make reasonable changes that
571	would prevent the neglect;
572	(xii) the parent, guardian, or an adult residing in the same household as the parent or
573	guardian, is charged or arrested pursuant to Title 58, Chapter 37d, Clandestine Drug Lab Act,
574	and any clandestine laboratory operation was located in the residence or on the property where
575	the child resided;
576	(xiii) (A) the child's welfare is substantially endangered; and
577	(B) the parent or guardian is unwilling or unable to make reasonable changes that
578	would remove the danger; or
579	(xiv) the child's natural parent:
580	(A) intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly causes the death of another parent of the
581	child;
582	(B) is identified by a law enforcement agency as the primary suspect in an investigation
583	for intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly causing the death of another parent of the child; or
584	(C) is being prosecuted for or has been convicted of intentionally, knowingly, or
585	recklessly causing the death of another parent of the child.

(b) (i) Prima facie evidence of the finding described in Subsection (9)(a)(i) is established if:

- (A) a court previously adjudicated that the child suffered abuse, neglect, or dependency involving the parent; and
 - (B) a subsequent incident of abuse, neglect, or dependency involving the parent occurs.
- (ii) For purposes of Subsection (9)(a)(iv), if the court finds that the parent knowingly allowed the child to be in the physical care of a person after the parent received actual notice that the person physically abused, sexually abused, or sexually exploited the child, that fact constitutes prima facie evidence that there is a substantial risk that the child will be physically abused, sexually abused, or sexually exploited.
- (10) (a) (i) The court shall also make a determination on the record as to whether reasonable efforts were made to prevent or eliminate the need for removal of the child from the child's home and whether there are available services that would prevent the need for continued removal.
- (ii) If the court finds that the child can be safely returned to the custody of the child's parent or guardian through the provision of those services, the court shall place the child with the child's parent or guardian and order that those services be provided by the division.
- (b) In making the determination described in Subsection (10)(a), and in ordering and providing services, the child's health, safety, and welfare shall be the paramount concern, in accordance with federal law.
- (11) Where the division's first contact with the family occurred during an emergency situation in which the child could not safely remain at home, the court shall make a finding that any lack of preplacement preventive efforts was appropriate.
- (12) In cases where actual sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, abandonment, severe abuse, or severe neglect are involved, neither the division nor the court has any duty to make "reasonable efforts" or to, in any other way, attempt to maintain a child in the child's home, return a child to the child's home, provide reunification services, or attempt to rehabilitate the offending parent or parents.
- (13) The court may not order continued removal of a child solely on the basis of educational neglect as defined in Section 78A-6-105, truancy, or failure to comply with a court order to attend school.

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617	(14) (a) Whenever a court orders continued removal of a child under this section, the
618	court shall state the facts on which that decision is based.
619	(b) If no continued removal is ordered and the child is returned home, the court shall
620	state the facts on which that decision is based.
621	(15) If the court finds that continued removal and temporary custody are necessary for
622	the protection of a child pursuant to Subsection (9)(a), the court shall order continued removal
623	regardless of:
624	(a) any error in the initial removal of the child;
625	(b) the failure of a party to comply with notice provisions; or
626	(c) any other procedural requirement of this chapter or Title 62A, Chapter 4a, Child
627	and Family Services.
628	Section 8. Section 78B-6-105 is amended to read:
629	78B-6-105. Venue Jurisdiction over nonresidents Time for filing.
630	[(1) Adoption proceedings shall be commenced by filing a petition with the clerk of the
631	district court either:]
632	[(a) in the district where the prospective adoptive parent resides;]
633	[(b) if the prospective adoptive parent is not a resident of this state, in the district
634	where:
635	[(i) the adoptee was born;]
636	[(ii) the adoptee resides on the day on which the petition is filed; or]
637	[(iii) a parent of the proposed adoptee resides on the day on which the petition is filed;
638	or]
639	[(c) with the juvenile court as provided in Subsection 78A-6-103(2).]
640	(1) (a) Notwithstanding Title 78B, Chapter 3, Part 3, Place of Trial Venue, an
641	adoption proceeding shall be commenced by filing a petition for adoption:
642	(i) in the juvenile court in accordance with Section 78A-6-110 if the juvenile court has
643	jurisdiction over the proceeding under Subsection 78A-6-103(2); or
644	(ii) in the district court where:
645	(A) the prospective adoptive parent resides;
646	(B) a child-placing agency with custody of the adoptee conducts the child-placing
647	agency's business;

648	(C) the adoptee was born;
649	(D) the adoptee resides on the day on which petition is filed; or
650	(E) a parent of the proposed adoptee resides on the day on which the petition is filed.
651	(b) If a petition is filed in a district court that is not the proper court for the adoption
652	proceeding, the district court may transfer the adoption proceeding to the proper court in
653	accordance with the Utah Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 42.
654	(2) All petitions, orders, decrees, agreements, and notices in [the proceedings] an
655	adoption proceeding shall be filed with the clerk of the court [where the adoption proceedings
656	were commenced under Subsection (1)] where the adoption proceeding is held.
657	(3) A petition for adoption:
658	(a) may be filed before the birth of a child;
659	(b) may be filed before or after the adoptee is placed in the home of the petitioner for
660	the purpose of adoption; and
661	(c) shall be filed no later than 30 days after the day on which the adoptee is placed in
662	the home of the petitioners for the purpose of adoption, unless:
663	(i) the time for filing has been extended by the court; or
664	(ii) the adoption is arranged by a child-placing agency in which case the agency may
665	extend the filing time.
666	(4) (a) If a person whose consent for the adoption is required under Section 78B-6-120
667	or 78B-6-121 cannot be found within the state, the fact of the minor's presence within the state
668	shall confer jurisdiction on the court in proceedings under this chapter as to such absent person,
669	provided that due notice has been given in accordance with the Utah Rules of Civil Procedure.
670	(b) The notice may not include the name of:
671	(i) a prospective adoptive parent; or
672	(ii) an unmarried mother without her consent.
673	(5) Service of notice [as provided] described in Subsection (6) shall vest the court with
674	jurisdiction over the person served in the same manner and to the same extent as if the person
675	served was served personally within the state.
676	(6) In the case of service outside the state, service completed not less than five days
677	before the time set in the notice for appearance of the person served shall be sufficient to confer
678	jurisdiction.

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               (7) Computation of periods of time not otherwise set forth in this section shall be made
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       in accordance with the Utah Rules of Civil Procedure.
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               Section 9. Section 78B-6-115 is amended to read:
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               78B-6-115. Who may adopt -- Adoption of minor -- Adoption of adult.
               (1) [For purposes of] As used in this section, "vulnerable adult" means:
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               (a) [a person 65 years of age] an individual who is 65 years old or older; or
               (b) an adult[, 18 years of age] who is 18 years old or older, and who has a mental or
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       physical impairment [which] that substantially affects that [person's] adult's ability to:
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               (i) provide personal protection;
               (ii) provide necessities such as food, shelter, clothing, or medical or other health care;
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               (iii) obtain services necessary for health, safety, or welfare:
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               (iv) carry out the activities of daily living;
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               (v) manage the adult's own resources; or
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               (vi) comprehend the nature and consequences of remaining in a situation of abuse,
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       neglect, or exploitation.
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               (2) Subject to this section and Section 78B-6-117, any adult may be adopted by another
       adult.
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               (3) The following provisions of this part apply to the adoption of an adult just as
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       though the [person] individual being adopted were a minor:
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               (a) (i) Section 78B-6-108;
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               (ii) Section 78B-6-114:
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               (iii) Section 78B-6-116;
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               (iv) Section 78B-6-118;
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               (v) Section 78B-6-124;
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               (vi) Section 78B-6-136;
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               (vii) Section 78B-6-137:
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               (viii) Section 78B-6-138;
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               (ix) Section 78B-6-139;
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               (x) Section 78B-6-141; and
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               (xi) Section 78B-6-142;
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               (b) Subsections [78B-6-105(1)(a), (1)(b)(i), (1)(b)(ii), (2), and (7)] [78B-6-105(1)(a)(i), (1)(b)(ii), (2), and (7)]
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710 (1)(a)(ii)(A), (1)(a)(ii)(C), (1)(a)(ii)(D), (1)(b), (2), and (7), except that the juvenile court does 711 not have jurisdiction over a proceeding for adoption of an adult, unless the adoption arises from 712 a case where the juvenile court has continuing jurisdiction over the mature adoptee; and (c) if the mature adoptee is a vulnerable adult, Sections 78B-6-128 through 78B-6-131, 713 714 regardless of whether the mature adoptee resides, or will reside, with the [adoptors] adopters, 715 unless the court, based on a finding of good cause, waives the requirements of those sections. 716 (4) Before a court enters a final decree of adoption of a mature adoptee, the mature 717 adoptee and the prospective adoptive parent or parents shall appear before the court presiding 718 over the adoption [proceedings] proceeding and execute consent to the adoption. 719 (5) No provision of this part, other than those listed or described in this section or 720 Section 78B-6-117, apply to the adoption of an adult. 721 Section 10. Section **78B-6-120.1** is amended to read: 722 **78B-6-120.1.** Implied consent. 723 (1) [(a)] As used in this section[, "abandonment"]: 724 (a) "Abandonment" means failure of a father, with reasonable knowledge of the 725 pregnancy, to offer and provide financial and emotional support to the birth mother for a period 726 of six months before the day on which the adoptee is born. 727 (b) "Emotional support" means a pattern of statements or actions that indicate to a 728 reasonable person that a father intends to provide for the physical and emotional well-being of 729 an unborn child. 730 [(b)] (2) (a) A court may not determine that a father abandoned the birth mother if the 731 father failed to provide financial or emotional support because the birth mother refused to 732 accept support. 733 [(2) (a) As used in this section, "emotional support" means a pattern of statements or 734 actions that indicate to a reasonable person that a father intends to provide for the physical and 735 emotional well-being of an unborn child. 736 (b) A court may not find that a father failed to provide emotional support if the father's 737 failure was due to impossibility of performance. 738 (3) Consent or relinquishment, as required by Subsection 78B-6-120(1), may be

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implied by any of the following acts:

(a) abandonment;

741 (b) leaving the adoptee with a third party, without providing the third party with the 742 parent's identification, for 30 consecutive days; 743 (c) knowingly leaving the adoptee with another person, without providing for support, 744 communicating, or otherwise maintaining a substantial relationship with the adoptee, for six 745 consecutive months; or 746 (d) receiving notification of a pending adoption proceeding under Subsection 78B-6-110(6) or of a termination proceeding under Section 78B-6-112 and failing to respond 747 748 as required. 749 (4) Implied consent under Subsection (3)[(a)] may not be withdrawn. (5) Nothing in this section negates the requirements of Section 78B-6-121 or 750 751 78B-6-122 for an unmarried biological father. 752 Section 11. Section **78B-6-136.5** is amended to read: 753 78B-6-136.5. Timing of entry of final decree of adoption -- Posthumous adoption. 754 (1) Except as provided in Subsection (2), a final decree of adoption may not be entered 755 until the earlier of: 756 (a) when the child has lived in the home of the prospective adoptive parent for six 757 months; or 758 (b) when the child has been placed for adoption with the prospective adoptive parent 759 for six months. 760 (2) (a) If the prospective adoptive parent is the spouse of the [pre-existing] preexisting parent, a final decree of adoption may not be entered until the child has lived in the home of 761 762 that prospective adoptive parent for one year, unless, based on a finding of good cause, the

(b) The court may, based on a finding of good cause, order that the final decree of adoption be entered at an earlier time than described in Subsection (1).

court orders that the final decree of adoption may be entered at an earlier time.

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- (3) [If the child dies during the time that the child is placed in the home of a prospective adoptive parent or parents for the purpose of adoption, the] The court has authority to enter a final decree of adoption after [the] a child's death upon the request of the prospective adoptive parent or parents[-] of the child if:
- (a) the child dies during the time that the child is placed in the home of a prospective adoptive parent or parents for the purpose of adoption; or

772	(b) the prospective adoptive parent is the spouse of a preexisting parent of the child and
773	the child lived with the prospective adoptive parent before the child's death.
774	[(4) The court may enter a final decree of adoption declaring that a child is adopted by
775	both a deceased and a surviving adoptive parent if, after the child is placed in the home of the
776	child's prospective adoptive parents:]
777	[(a) one of the prospective adoptive parents dies;]
778	[(b) the surviving prospective adoptive parent requests that the court enter the decree;
779	and]
780	[(c) the decree is entered after the child has lived in the home of the surviving
781	prospective adoptive parent for at least six months.]
782	(4) The court may enter a final decree of adoption declaring that a child is adopted by:
783	(a) both a deceased and a surviving adoptive parent if after the child is placed in the
784	home of the child's prospective adoptive parents:
785	(i) one of the prospective adoptive parents dies;
786	(ii) the surviving prospective adoptive parent requests that the court enter the decree;
787	<u>and</u>
788	(iii) the decree is entered after the child has lived in the home of the surviving
789	prospective adoptive parent for at least six months; or
790	(b) a spouse of a preexisting parent if after the child has lived with the spouse of the
791	preexisting parent:
792	(i) the preexisting parent, or the spouse of preexisting parent, dies;
793	(ii) the preexisting parent, or the spouse of the preexisting parent, requests that the
794	court enter the decree; and
795	(iii) the child has lived in the same home as the spouse of the preexisting parent for at
796	least one year.
797	(5) Upon request of a surviving [pre-existing] preexisting parent, or a surviving parent
798	for whom adoption of a child has been finalized, the court may enter a final decree of adoption
799	declaring that a child is adopted by a deceased adoptive parent who was the spouse of the
800	surviving parent at the time of the prospective adoptive parent's death.
801	(6) The court may enter a final decree of adoption declaring that a child is adopted by
802	both deceased prospective adoptive parents if:

803	(a) both of the prospective adoptive parents die after the child is placed in the
804	prospective adoptive parents' home; and
805	(b) it is in the best interests of the child to enter the decree.
806	(7) Nothing in this section shall be construed to grant any rights to the [pre-existing]
807	preexisting parents of a child to assert any interest in the child during the six-month or one-year
808	periods described in this section.
809	Section 12. Section 78B-6-140 is amended to read:
810	78B-6-140. Itemization of fees and expenses.
811	(1) Except as provided in Subsection (4), [prior to] before the date that a final decree of
812	adoption is entered, an affidavit regarding fees and expenses, signed by the prospective
813	adoptive parent or parents and the person or agency placing the child, shall be filed with the
814	court.
815	(2) The affidavit described in Subsection (1) shall itemize the following items in
816	connection with the adoption:
817	(a) all legal expenses, maternity expenses, medical or hospital expenses, and living
818	expenses that have been or will be paid to or on behalf of the [pre-existing] preexisting parents
819	of the child, including the source of payment;
820	(b) fees paid by the prospective adoptive parent or parents in connection with the
821	adoption;
822	(c) all gifts, property, or other items that have been or will be provided to the
823	[pre-existing] preexisting parents, including the source of the gifts, property, or other items;
824	(d) all public funds used for any medical or hospital costs in connection with the:
825	(i) pregnancy;
826	(ii) delivery of the child; or
827	(iii) care of the child;
828	(e) the state of residence of the:
829	(i) birth mother or the [pre-existing] preexisting parents; and
830	(ii) prospective adoptive parent or parents;
831	(f) a description of services provided to the prospective adoptive parents or
832	[pre-existing] preexisting parents in connection with the adoption; and
833	(g) that Section 76-7-203 has not been violated.

(3) [A] If a child-placing agency, that is licensed by this state, placed the child, a copy
of the affidavit described in Subsection (1) shall be provided to the Office of Licensing within
the Department of Human Services.

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(4) This section does not apply if the prospective adoptive parent is the legal spouse of a [pre-existing] preexisting parent.